



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0253-Room 2610-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-0253

March 2003

**NOTICE TO NATIVE AMERICAN BISON PRODUCERS
AND/OR NATIVE AMERICAN COOPERATIVES**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will, in the near future, begin purchasing bison products for distribution to Federal food and nutrition programs. A major part of this program will be the purchase of live bison meat (based on hot carcasses weight) from Native American bison producers and cooperatives that meet the following criteria: (1) Must be a member of one of the 562 Indian entities recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Federal Register (Volume 67, Number 134, dated July 12, 2002), (2) the bison must be from 18 to 60 months of age and not less than 500 pounds live weight, (3) the producer must have owned the bison at least 6 months, and the bison must be produced in the United States ("U.S. produced" does not include bison imported for direct slaughter), and (4) Must certify compliance with the above criteria, at the time of delivery. Additionally, the bison must pass all inspections (before, during and after slaughter) set forth in the Voluntary Exotic Animal Inspection program administered by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The producers assume all losses associated with carcasses or carcass components condemned or deemed not suitable for human consumption by USDA.

Upon approval for the program, the producer must deliver a specified number of live bison to a designated slaughter facility for processing. The bison carcasses will be processed and the products will be distributed to participants in Federal food and nutrition programs.

The bison will be purchased from producers based on the yield of the delivered lot ($\text{Lot Yield \%} = \frac{\text{Total Hot Carcass Weight}}{\text{Total Live Weight}} \times 100\%$).

Price Per Pound Pay Scale (Hot Carcass Weight)

= 53.0%	53.1 – 54.0%	54.01 – 55.0%	55.1% - 56.0%	56.1% - 57.0%	= 57.1%
\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.50

Example: 70 Bison, with a total live weight of 50,835 and a total hot carcass weight of 28,046 equals 55.2% lot yield. Price per pound paid to the producer will be $\$2.00 \times 28,046 = \$56,092.00$.

Payment will be made to the producer after the live animal and carcass pass all ante and post-mortem inspections, which includes all Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) laboratory testing. Payment will be based on the percent yield of the lot. Any bison that fails inspection will not be considered in the yield calculation. Designated slaughter facilities, under contract with AMS, will perform the slaughter and arrange for USDA inspections at no cost to the producer. All transportation, handling, and delivery costs necessary to deliver the bison to a designated slaughter facility will be the responsibility of the producer. The producer will be paid by the contracted slaughter facility. It is anticipated that delivery of bison to a designated slaughter facility will begin in May 2003.

AMS is requesting that the producers who may be interested in participating in this program submit

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the attached Pre-Delivery Survey Information form to assist us in estimating the number of bison that will be available for processing. AMS will also use this information to inform processors of the locations and approximate number of animals available for processing under the program. AMS reserves the right to contract with those producers that have submitted the Pre-Delivery Survey Information form and meet the stated requirements.

Completion and submission of this survey does not create a legally binding contract, agreement, or document of any kind by or between the signatory, the United States government, and any third parties. AMS reserves the right to cancel the program at any time due to funding restrictions.

Please send via express mail or fax the Pre-Delivery Survey Information form to the following address by April 11, 2003.

Contracting Officer
USDA, AMS, LS Program, CP Branch
Room 2610-South building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250

Fax number: (202) 720-9538

It is the responsibility of the producer to make the appropriate arrangements with designated slaughter facilities at the time of delivery for the return of heads, hides, and any edible internal organs that are approved for human consumption derived from their bison.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Lutz of AMS, on (202) 720-2650.

/s/ Duane Williams 3/14/02

Duane Williams, Chief
Commodity Procurement Branch
Livestock and Seed Program



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Pre-Delivery Survey Information

Due by April 11, 2003

(Please print all information except signature line)

Owner's Name: _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Cooperative Affiliation:
(If Applicable) _____

Address (No P.O. Number): _____

Telephone number: _____

Fax Number : _____

Herd Location
(City/County/State/Zip Code) _____

Transportation costs for the live bison are the responsibility of the producer. Would you still like to participate? (Circle One) Yes No

Approximate Number of miles you are willing/able to transport the live bison to a slaughter facility: _____

Number of bison to sell to USDA on a yield basis for the lot
(must meet the requirements set forth in the notice): _____

Are your Bison primarily? (Circle One) Grain fed or Range/Grass fed

Approximate live weight of bison (pounds): _____

Has the bison been tested or vaccinated for Brucellosis ? (Circle One) Yes No

If yes, was the result negative? (Circle One) Yes No

By submitting the Pre-Survey information, the owner(s) of the above bison(s): (1) certifies that they are a member of one of the 562 Indian entities recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and (2) acknowledges this survey is for informational purposes only. Completion of this survey does not create a legally binding contract, agreement, or document of any kind by or between the signatory, the United States government, and any third parties.

Name of Owner (please print): _____

Signature of Owner: _____ DATE: _____